

Introduced by: Councilmember Austin-Lane

Resolution 2005-41
Proclaiming May 27th as Rachel Carson Day in Takoma Park

- Whereas,** worldwide exposure to chemical pesticides brings about greater harm than most people realize; and
- Whereas,** more than three billion kilograms of pesticides are spread on the earth annually, exposing both human and wildlife populations to chemicals, with potentially serious repercussions for life everywhere; and
- Whereas,** our children are uniquely vulnerable to chemical pesticides due to their developing physiology and to their habit of frequently putting their hands into their mouths; and
- Whereas,** chemical pesticides applied outdoors are washed into our waterways and our drinking water sources. Several types of cancer, neurological diseases, endocrine disorders and birth defects have all been associated with exposure to common pesticides; and
- Whereas,** pregnant women, children, asthmatics, cancer patients, elderly people, people with compromised immune systems in addition to wildlife such as migratory birds are all highly vulnerable to the toxic effects of chemical pesticides; and
- Whereas,** certain pesticides, especially some used overseas, can bioaccumulate in the food chain, and appear in commercial food products; and
- Whereas,** many workers are regularly exposed to higher doses of potentially toxic pesticides than the general public, for example, farm workers and certain industrial workers; and
- Whereas,** more than 40 years ago, the well-known writer, scientist and ecologist Rachel Carson alerted America and the world to the potential hazards of pesticides in her landmark book *Silent Spring*. Despite the warning, the quantity of pesticides used in our country has continued to grow over the years and poses a potential threat to all life forms.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, that we proclaim May 27, 2005 as Rachel Carson Day throughout Takoma Park, in honor of her important and highly relevant work, and urge Takoma Park residents to focus their attention on the potentially serious hazards associated with chemical pesticides; and

Be it further resolved that we invite residents throughout Takoma Park to observe this day, the birth date of Rachel Carson, by refraining from using chemical pesticides on this day and ask residents for their cooperation in seeking alternative methods of pest management.

Adopted this 23rd day of May, 2005.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter
Acting City Clerk